



STANFORD UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

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STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
Department of Genetics

August 11, 1972

Dr. Amel Menotti  
Bristol Laboratories  
Syracuse, N.Y.

Dear Amel:

Many years have passed since I was a consultant with the antibiotics development program at Bristol. But I am still dismayed and disappointed at the gap between academic and applied research, particularly in the potential uses of ideas from microbial genetics and metabolic regulation.

Since I came out to California 13 years ago, I have not seen much dramatic change, certainly nothing to match the very rapid progress in basic molecular biology of this era. Still I have continued to hope that my own research might bear some practical, humanly useful fruits besides its general impact on biological thinking. Experience tells that this will not be as simple as some sudden intellectual inspiration; and I am well aware of the new problems that face drug development as a consequence of contemporary formulations of regulatory policy.

I was then deeply gratified to hear from my friend and colleague (at Berkeley) Don Glaser that he was taking part in the organization of a new company, CETUS which was specifically aimed at filling the kinds of gaps that had distressed me. Besides the base in molecular biology that most closely corresponds to my own interests, the CETUS team also has particular skills in instrumentation -- electronic, mechanical and computer-based -- which open a new dimension in the automation of screening and test procedures. Glaser has already demonstrated some remarkable achievements with an automated microbiological facility at Berkeley.

At any rate, while CETUS already has some products that might interest you, we are still formulating basic research strategies, both in the selection of the most effort-worthy problems, and in the contractual framework for pursuing them in collaboration with established pharmaceutical firms. We have in mind innovations both in the search for new antibiotics and in the improvement of existing processes.

Far from an imposition, I was confident that you would welcome at least this much information about these looming opportunities; and I have asked Dr. Cape of CETUS to append a more detailed statement of our plans, which are being discussed concurrently with a number of other firms. If there is anything here that you would want to follow up, you need but to call Dr. Cape who will take it from there. Nothing would be better than a personal visit by you; and should you be in the area, I would look forward to seeing you again.

With best of wishes and recollections, Sincerely,

Hoshua Lederberg

LT. J. P. KENNEDY, JR. LABORATORIES FOR MOLECULAR MEDICINE, DEDICATED TO RESEARCH IN MENTAL RETARDATION

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

HEREDITY

NEUROBIOLOGY

DEVELOPMENTAL MEDICINE

See Memo 8/11/72